

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00842 221319 Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

NIC-01 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 024451

R 221245 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5306

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0842

E. O. 11652: DECON 22 JUN74

TAGS: PINS, MA, (RAKOTONIRINA, MANANDAFY)

SUBJ: TRIAL OF RADICAL LEADER

REF: TANANARIVE 0822

1. GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS COURT HAS DECIDED
POSTPONE RENDERING VERDICT IN CASE OF MANANDAFY AND 63
CO- DEFENDANTS (PRESS HAD ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED 72 EARLIER)
UNTIL JUNE 29. VERDICT HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR 9:00 A. M.
JUNE 22, AND LARGE NUMBER OF MANANDAFY FOLLOWERS HAD RESUMED
VIGIL AT COURTHOUSE. APPARENTLY THEY ARE NOW REFUSING LEAVE
SCENE OF TRIAL AND ARE CALLING FOR VERDICT TODAY. SO FAR NO
RPT NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS REPORTED.

2. COMMENT: MANANDAFY TRIAL HAS INEVITABLY ASSUMED
POLITICAL PROPORTIONS, LARGER, WE SUSPECT, THAN GOVT HAD
ANTICIPATED WHEN ARRESTS MADE MAY 12 AND 13. ABOVE SOURCE
SPECULATES THAT POSTPONEMENT OF VERDICT WAS DECIDED AFTER
LAST MINUTE REQUEST FROM OFFICE HEAD OF GOVT, THEORY BEING
THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WISHES TO DISCUSS AT MEETING AFTERNOON
JUNE 22 AND FIND SOME WAY OUT OF DILEMMA OF HOW TO TEACH
MANANDAFY AND HIS RABBLE CLEAR LESSON WITHOUT AT SAME TIME
INCITING POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS. LATTER WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
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PAGE 02 TANANA 00842 221319 Z

EMBARRASSING ON EVE OF IMPORTANT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS
FOR WHICH TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, PRC DELEGATION, ETC.,
HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AND PRESUMABLY OTHER EXPECTED.
MENDENHALL

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TANANA00842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730630/aaaajqvx.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TANANARIVE 0822
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980227
Subject: TRIAL OF RADICAL LEADER
TAGS: PINS, MA, (RAKOTONIRINA, MANANDAFY)
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005